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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	10/700,334
		Filing Date	November 3, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Jeffrey M. Aftanas et al.
		Art Unit	3727
		Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	0210B-000254/CPB

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s)
<i>(please identify below):</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund | 3 sheets of Form PTO-1449 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | 9 Foreign Patent Documents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | | |

Remarks

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Mark D. Elchuk	Reg. No. 33,686
Signature			
Date	September 28, 2004		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name	Mark D. Elchuk	Express Mail Label No.	EV 531 990 003 US (9/28/2004)
Signature		Date	September 28, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

EV 531 990 003 US

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/700,334

Filing Date: November 3, 2003

Applicant: Jeffrey M. Aftanas et al.

Group Art Unit: 3727

Examiner:

Title: VEHICLE ARTICLE CARRIER HAVING STOWABLE CROSS BARS

Attorney Docket: 0210B-000254/CPB

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A. Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cross referenced pending U.S. application listed below in Section IV, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C. Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

D. This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search report are listed on the attached Form 1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. If the International Search report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g).)

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application:

2. English translations are provided:

3. Other:

C. The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A. The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does (do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Art Unit</u>
10/279,285	10/24/2002	3727

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b): (check only one box)**

1. within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.
2. within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.
3. before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
4. before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)**

before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

2. See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):**

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or

B. no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication

was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VI. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

- A. A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above identified fee.
- B. Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 28, 2004

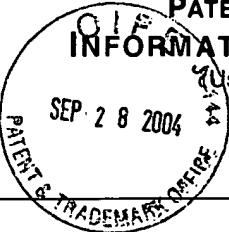
By: 
Mark D. Elchuk
Reg. No. 33,686

Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

[ATTY/asst initials]

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
		0210B-000254/CPB	10/700,334
		APPLICANT	
		Jeffrey M. Aftanas et al.	
		FILING DATE	GROUP
		November 3, 2003	3727

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)
 SEP 28 2004
 Sheet 1 of 3



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.		3,670,935	6/1972	Hinkston		
2.		3,838,802	10/1974	Grycel, III		
3.		4,225,068	9/1980	Ingram		
4.		4,345,705	8/1982	Graber		
5.		4,406,386	9/1983	Rasor et al.		
6.		4,416,406	11/1983	Popeney		
7.		4,473,178	9/1984	Bott		
8.		4,487,348	12/1984	Mareydt		
9.		5,004,139	4/1991	Storm et al.		
10.		5,071,050	12/1991	Pudney et al.		
11.		5,104,018	4/1992	Dixon		
12.		5,273,195	12/1993	Cucheran et al.		
13.		5,340,007	8/1994	Jeuffray et al.		
14.		5,372,287	12/1994	Deguevara		
15.		5,377,890	1/1995	Brunner et al.		
16.		5,385,285	1/1995	Cucheran et al.		
17.		5,395,024	3/1995	Luchtenberg		
18.		5,411,196	5/1995	Lee, Jr. et al.		
19.		5,464,140	11/1995	Hill		
20.		5,511,709	4/1996	Fisch		
21.		5,529,231	6/1996	Burgess		

Examiner:	Date Considered:
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EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
		0210B-000254/CPB	10/700,334
		APPLICANT	
		Jeffrey M. Aftanas et al.	
		FILING DATE	GROUP
		November 3, 2003	3727

Sheet 2 of 3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
22.		5,588,572	12/1996	Cronce et al.		
23.		5,624,063	4/1997	Ireland		
24.		5,758,810	6/1998	Stapleton		
25.		5,782,391	7/1998	Cretcher		
26.		5,791,536	8/1998	Stapleton		
27.		5,845,829	12/1998	Stapleton		
28.		5,884,824	3/1999	Spring, Jr.		
29.		6,015,074	1/2000	Snavely et al.		
30.		6,102,265	8/2000	Stapleton		
31.		6,286,739 B1	9/2001	Stapleton		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes No
1.		DE 3814799	11/1988	Germany		Abstract
2.		DE 3641745	6/1988	Germany		Abstract
3.		FR 2661378	10/1991	France		Abstract
4.		WO 9108929	6/1991	WIPO		Abstract
5.		DE 2939672	4/1981	Germany		Abstract

Examiner:	Date Considered:
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EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

**PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITIGATION**
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 3 of 3

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
0210B-000254/CPB	10/700,334
APPLICANT	
Jeffrey M. Aftanas et al.	
FILING DATE	GROUP
November 3, 2003	3727

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes	No
6.		DE 2945950	5/1981	Germany		Abstract	
7.		DE 3201409	9/1983	Germany		Abstract	
8.		DE 3029586	3/1982	Germany		Abstract	
9.		FR 2,713,568 A1	6/1995	France		Abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	
1.		

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.